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64-2642

22 April 1964

Hong the Eugene M. Zuckert
Secretary of the Air Force
Washington, D. C.

Dear Gene:

Mince becoming Director of Central Intelligence I have had an opportunity to exerve at close range the work of Colonel Jack C. Ledford who, for the past several years, has been assigned to CIA by the Air Force. Colonel Ledford carried the laboring oar in the development

well for both CIA and for the Air Force and has demonstrated to my complete satisfaction that he is an officer of unusual capabilities and therefore should be given most serious consideration for promotion to Brigadier General. In my spinion he is one of those rare individuals whom the Air Force should build up rapidly in its own future interest.

In a letter to General LeMay dated 26 August 1963, my Deputy. General Carter, stated, "Colonel Ledford in the Central Intelligence Agency and is responsible for collection programs with which you are familiar. As a senior regular Air Force officer, Colonel Ledford is in a highly responsible position requiring the greatest objectivity totally devoid of parochialism. He has measured up to this unusual requirement in every respect and, because of this, has earned the admiration and respect of all of us here in the Agency as well as the key officials with whom he is associated in the Department of Defense. He has produced a truly remarkable performance under the most trying circumstances. His actual performance of duty is likewise outstanding."

You will note from my opening paragraph that I am completely in accord with General Carter's statement and I am anxious to add my unqualified endorsement of Colonel Ledford. While I am basically opposed to specialized treatment, I understand it is Air Force tradition to consider a few promotions in late Spring of each year. Knowing this, I feel I would be remiss in not bringing Colonel Ledford's name to yours and General LeMay's attention.

I am writing a similar endorsement to General LeMay.

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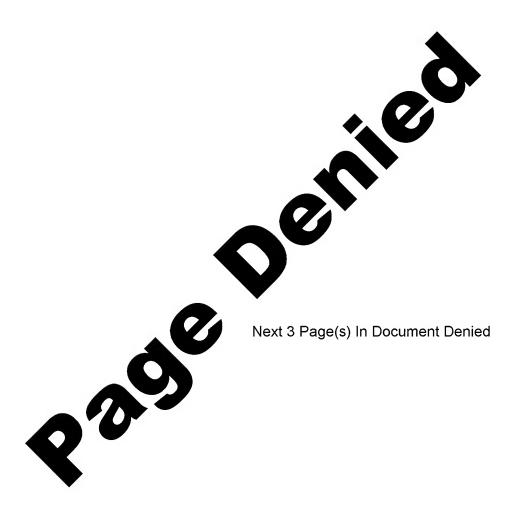
Sincerely,

John A. McCone

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26 August 1963

General Curtis E. LeMay Chief of Staff United States Air Force Washington, D. C.

Dear General LeMay:

As you know, I have had long and close personal contact with many senior Air Force officers, particularly in the grade of Colonel and higher, and especially during the three years I was Chief of Staff of CONAD and NORAD.

This is to let you know that of all the Air Force Colonels
I have been associated with over the years, Colonel Jack C.
Ledford is heads above the herd and, in my epinion, is running
right at the top level of "Outstanding." I have just recently
acted as indersing officer to his current efficiency report but
because of the fact that he works in the Central Intelligence
Agency under my immediate supervision in a position requiring
the utmost in diplomacy and delicacy of effort, I wanted you to
know personally of my opinion of him.

Activities in the Central Intelligence Agency and is responsible for collection programs with which you are familiar. As a senior regular Air Force officer, Colonel Ledford is in a highly responsible position requiring the greatest objectivity totally devoid of parochialism. He has measured up to this unusual requirement in every respect and, because of this, has earned the admiration and respect of all of us here in the Agency as well as the key officials with whom he is associated in the Department of Defense. He has produced a truly remarkable performance under the most trying circumstances. His actual performance of duty is likewise outstanding.

I want to make this a matter of personal record to you (and I am sending a copy to Bozo McKee) because I want to make sure that the intricacies of the tasks assigned to Ledford, and his very remarkable performance of duty in them, are given full credit in the Air Force promotion system. I strongly recommend Colonel Ledford without reservation for promotion to Brigadier General.

Paithfully yours,

/s/

Marshall 3. Carter Lieutenant General, USA Deputy Director

Distribution:

Original - Addressee

1 - General W. F. McKee

Vice Chief of Staff, United States Air Force

Y-DDCI

1 - Executive Director

1 - O/Personnel (for official Personnel file)

